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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, DECEMBER 20, 2000

APPLICATION OF

TOUCH AMERICA, INC.-VIRGINIA

CASE NO. PUC000273

For a certificate of public
convenience and necessity to
provide facilities-based
interexchange telecommunications
services

ORDER FOR NOTICE

On October 13, 2000, TOUCH AMERICA, INC.-VIRGINIA ("TOUCH AMERICA" or "Applicant") filed an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity ("certificate") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") to provide interexchange telecommunications services throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Applicant also requested authority to price its interexchange telecommunications services on a competitive basis pursuant to § 56-481.1 of the Code of Virginia.

NOW UPON CONSIDERATION of the application, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that TOUCH AMERICA's application should be docketed; that the Applicant should give notice to the public of its application; that interested persons should have an opportunity to comment and request a hearing on TOUCH AMERICA's application; that the Commission Staff should be

permitted to file a Staff Report, if necessary; and, if substantive objections are received, a public hearing should be convened to receive evidence relevant to TOUCH AMERICA's application for a certificate to provide interexchange telecommunications services.

Accordingly, IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) This case is docketed and assigned Case No. PUC000273.

(2) On or before January 12, 2001, the Applicant shall complete publication of the following notice, which may be published on one (1) occasion as classified advertising in newspapers having general circulation throughout the Applicant's proposed service territory:

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY
TOUCH AMERICA, INC.-VIRGINIA FOR A
CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND
NECESSITY TO PROVIDE INTEREXCHANGE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA AND TO HAVE ITS
RATES DETERMINED COMPETITIVELY
CASE NO. PUC000273

On October 13, TOUCH AMERICA, INC.-VIRGINIA ("TOUCH AMERICA" or "Applicant"), filed an application with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") for a certificate of public convenience and necessity ("certificate") to provide facilities-based interexchange telecommunications services throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. In its application, the Applicant also requested authority to price its interexchange telecommunications services on a competitive basis pursuant to § 56-481.1 of the Code of Virginia.

Copies of the application are available for public inspection between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. in the Commission's Document Control Center located on the first floor of the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia or can be ordered from Jonathan S. Marashlian, Esquire, The Helein Law Group, P.C., 8180 Greensboro Drive, Suite 700, McLean, Virginia 22102.

Any person desiring to comment in writing on TOUCH AMERICA's application for a certificate to provide interexchange telecommunications services may do so by directing such comments on or before January 26, 2001, to the Clerk of the Commission at the address set out below. Also, on or before January 26, 2001, any person desiring to lodge an objection to or request a hearing on TOUCH AMERICA's application shall file an original and fifteen (15) copies of its objection or request for hearing with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set out below. Requests for hearing must state with specificity why a hearing is necessary. If no substantive objections are received, the Commission may grant the certificate to provide interexchange telecommunications services without a hearing.

All written communications to the Commission concerning TOUCH AMERICA's application should be directed to Joel H. Peck, Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218, and must refer to Case No. PUC000273.

TOUCH AMERICA, INC.-VIRGINIA

(3) On or before January 12, 2001, the Applicant shall provide a copy of the notice contained in ordering paragraph (2) to each local exchange telephone carrier certificated in

Virginia and each interexchange carrier certificated in Virginia by personal delivery or first-class mail, postage prepaid, to the customary place of business or residence of the person served. Lists of all current local exchange and interexchange carriers in Virginia are attached to this Order as Appendices A and B, respectively.

(4) On or before January 26, 2001, any person desiring to lodge an objection or request a hearing on TOUCH AMERICA's application for a certificate to provide interexchange telecommunications services shall file an original and fifteen (15) copies of its objection or request for hearing with Joel H. Peck, Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218. Written objections shall refer to Case No. PUC000273 and shall state with specificity why a hearing is necessary.

(5) Any person desiring to comment in writing on TOUCH AMERICA's application for a certificate to provide interexchange telecommunications services may do so by directing such comments on or before January 26, 2001, to the Clerk of the Commission at the address set out below. Comments must refer to Case No. PUC000273.

(6) The Commission Staff shall be permitted to file a Staff Report, if necessary, on or before March 6, 2001.

(7) On or before March 14, 2001, TOUCH AMERICA shall file with the Clerk of the Commission an original and fifteen (15) copies of all testimony it expects to introduce in rebuttal to the Staff Report, if such report is filed.

(8) On or before February 28, 2001, TOUCH AMERICA shall file with the Clerk of the Commission proof of notice and service required by ordering paragraphs (2) and (3) herein.

(9) The Applicant shall respond to written interrogatories or data requests within seven (7) days after receipt of the same. Protestants shall provide to the Applicant, other Protestants, and Staff any workpapers or documents used in preparation of their prefiled testimony, promptly upon request. Except as so modified, discovery shall be in accordance with Part VI of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.